Sharp-shinned Hawk in Maine in Winter.— On January 6, 1914, a bird was brought to me for identification. It had flown into one of the storehouses on the post on January 3 and died January 5. It proved to be a very large male Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter velox*).

This is the fifth record of the occurrence of this bird in Maine during the winter months.— Lieutenant G. Ralph Meyer, U. S. A., *Ft. McKinley, Me.*

Extreme Emaciation in a Specimen of the Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*).— On the first of January, 1914, I received from Mr. Edward S. Schmid, of Washington, D. C., a fine specimen of this owl. The bird had died about an hour before it came into my hands. It had been captured in northern Virginia while sitting on a low bush in the woods, the captor simply walking up to it and slipping a bag over the bird as it sat there, apparently in a dazed condition.

When I first picked the specimen up it seemed to me to weigh but little more than a handful of feathers, so light was it. After removing the entire skin, from base of beak to claws, a most remarkable looking specimen was presented to my view. The bird had been shot with coarse (No. 4) shot, apparently a long time before its death, but the pellets were only in the superficial muscles of the back and pinion; whether they had deprived it of flight or not I cannot say. However, it was very clear that this owl had not eaten anything for a great length of time. All the evidences of extreme emaciation were present, and to a degree never before witnessed by me in any bird. The stomach was entirely empty, and all the organs and viscera of the thoracic cavity and abdomen were reduced almost to a state of atrophy. There was no adipose anywhere, but the most remarkable sight was the muscles. These were all flabby and of a very pale flesh-color; and the entire system was reduced almost to its tendons and fasciæ. As to the large pectoral muscles, they were so thin that the sternum and ribs could be seen through them, and I am very sure they were useless for the purpose of flight.

Sir Richard Owen, in describing the nervous system in birds, makes no mention of the coracoid bones in owls being piereed, antero-posteriorly, by a foramen near the middle of their shafts for the passage of a nerve. This I long ago pointed out to be the case in *Speotyto* (Bull. U. S. Geol. and Geogr. Surv. of the Terr., 1883, p. 107), and in regard to the character in this genus I stated: "This foramen transmits a branch of that cervical nerve coming from between the twelfth and thirteenth cervical vertebræ."

Now in this extremely emaciated Snowy Owl the nerves and vessels could all be traced and studied with remarkable ease and celerity. In it, the aforesaid nerve, passing, as usual, through the coracoid bone, is the most anterior one of the brachial plexus, with which it is incorporated in the common sheath, making no anastomotic connections with the other branches.— R. W. Shufeldt, *Washington, D. C.*